respectively of the cartridge (16) when the cartridge (16) is placed in the chamber (30) and restriction (27) provided in the flow path of the solution situated between the outlet (10) of the reservoir (2) and the outlet (7) of the chamber (3).

REMARKS

Claim 9 has been amended to eliminate a typographical error.

The rejection of Claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Scholer is considered to lack merit. Scholer is not considered to teach, or even suggest, the ion exchange cartridge device defined by even Claim 9, the most generic claim.

Unlike the device defined by Claim 9, there is no teaching, or even suggestion, in Scholer of a restriction in the flow path of the solution of alkali metal ions and chloride ions situated between the outlet of the reservoir of a solution of alkali metal ions and chloride ions and the outlet of the chamber for holding an ion exchange cartridge.

It appears from Fig. 1 of Scholer that there is no restriction present in the flow path of the solution of alkali metal ions and chloride situated between the outlet of the reservoir of the solution, strainer 27 of pipe 46 of container 22, and the outlet of the chamber holding the ion exchange cartridge, strainer 29 of pipe 28 of tank 16.